

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method which comprises ~~the step of:~~

investing by a pension plan of at least a portion of one or more assets of ~~a the~~ pension plan so as to acquire an ownership interest in a selected set of ~~one or more~~ current, in-force life insurance contracts sold by ~~from one or more~~ owners of the set of ~~one or more~~ current, in-force life insurance contracts, wherein each of the ~~one or more~~ set of current, in-force life insurance contracts is characterized in that it either (a) provides a plurality of periodic payments during the life of an insured or (b) provides a single death benefit on the life of an insured, ~~but in either case, and is selected so that~~ the insured is not a beneficiary of the pension plan, and is selected so that the remaining life expectancy of ~~the insured or the remaining life expectancy of each of the insureds~~ is within a predetermined limit:[,]

calculating by the pension plan or having calculated, by means of an apparatus, a total value of the pension plan assets inclusive of the interest in the selected set of current, in-force life insurance contracts so acquired, to thereby convert a value of the assets of the pension plan used to acquire the interest in the selected set of current, in-force life insurance contracts into an actuarial present value of the interest in the selected set of current, in-force life insurance contracts; and

maintaining by the pension plan or having maintained the enforceability of the selected set of current, in-force life insurance contracts and processing or having processed death benefits arising from the life settlement contracts  
~~when determined at least immediately after the acquisition, being such that (i) the total value of the pension plan assets, inclusive of the interest so acquired, determined immediately after the acquisition, is appreciably greater than (ii) the total value of the pension plan assets, exclusive of the interest so acquired and inclusive of the at least a portion of one or more assets of the pension plan invested, the respective total values of (i) and (ii) being determined at the same point in time and in accordance with the same actuarially sound valuation method.~~

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the one or more current, in-force insurance contracts are life insurance contracts, and wherein~~ each of the one or more life insurance contracts is characterized in that it provides a single death benefit on the life of an insured.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the remaining life expectancy of the ~~insured, or of at least one of the insureds~~[[,]] under the ~~one or more~~ life insurance contracts is no more than 20 years.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the remaining life expectancy of the ~~insured, or of at least one of the insureds~~[[,]] under the ~~one or more~~ life insurance contracts is no more than 15 years.

Claims 5-21 are cancelled.

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the life insurance contracts are life settlement contracts.

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the investing step comprises investing in an ownership interest in a pool of current, in-force life insurance contracts.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the pool of current, in-force life insurance contracts are life settlement contracts obtained and made available for acquisition by a third party and wherein the third party maintains or has maintained the enforceability of the selected set of current, in-force life settlement contracts and processes or has processed death benefits arising from the life settlement contracts.

25. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
setting a selection criterion for the selected set of current, in-force life insurance contracts that there will be no relative concentration of dollar value amount attributable to a single insurer or carrier.

26. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
administering the pension plan on an approximately regular basis to perform the  
investing and calculating steps to thereby reduce an unfunded actuarial accrued liability  
(UAL) and/or reduce any corresponding UAL amortization.